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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	224	Press. / Mis.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

224/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

27th December 1878, F.R. No. 2,624.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 429. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th December 1878, No. 3,465.

Read the following letter from C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Allinagaram, 17th December 1878:—

I HAVE the honor, in continuation of my letter, No. 494, dated 9th December 1878, to forward reports from Messrs. Turner, Kough, Hebbert, Clerk, and Lowry regarding the prospects of the zemindaries of Ramnad and Shivaganga and the Dindigul Sub-Division with my foot-notes.

2. I have not thought it necessary to send reports about the Melur, Madura, Tirumangalam, or Periyakulam Taluks, because I have been myself through the first three taluks carefully and consider that no distress requiring relief need be feared in them, and I have had no reports of a bad season from Periyakulam.

3. I am happy to be able to say that I do not think that any distress amounting to famine will arise anywhere. It is plain to me from my inquiries and the detailed reports now received that the good season at the beginning of the south-west monsoon favored early cultivation, and that much crop must have been well advanced when the rains began to fail. A good deal of grain was obtained from these crops, and no part of the district suffered from absolute failure, however bad the produce may have been in north and west of Pulney and parts of the Ramnad Zemindari. There are still dry crops in the ground which every here and there get the benefit of local showers, and where so benefited they are looking very well. Much dholl, kevaru ragi, and mochai beans will be saved in this way in every taluk that I have visited. There is much of these crops everywhere on the ground to which more rain is essential, and in all probability there will be an extensive failure among these, but the amount saved will form a large provision of food.

4. A great deal of nunjah must fail now I fear in every taluk under rain-fed tanks, for there has been no tank-filling rain and the tanks are nearly dry.

5. The state of the season will, however, I think, affect the revenue more than the people. Distress requiring to be relieved by the provision of labor and possibly by poor-houses may occur in Pulney and parts of Ramnad. It is not likely to last long in Pulney, because the system of cultivation in that taluk gives the ryots an early Tei Bhogam crop, of which the preparation employs labor, and from which the yield is usually very plentiful.

6. The poorer ryots, however, everywhere are already very greatly in arrears of revenue and are much indebted. This new failure or partial failure of the dry crop makes them worse off than ever, and I have the honor to submit for consideration the question of how to deal with them in the matter of suspensions or remissions.

7. I hope for reports of rain from most parts of the district very soon, for a north-east wind accompanied by a great deal of cloud has set in again.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. TURNER, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Ramnad, to C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated 9th December 1878, No. 298.

IN continuation of my previous reports on the state of the season and condition of the Ramnad Zemindari, and with reference to your letter No. 202, dated 20th November, I have the honor to report as follows.

1. *Rainfall.*—I enclose a comparative statement of the rainfall in Ramnad during Faslis 1284 to 1288 (till November). We had a fair fall of rain on the 24th, 25th and 26th November. This rain was fairly distributed all over the estate, was heaviest in Mutukolatur Taluk, and the southern part of Kamuthy Taluk, while very little fell in the north. Some villages in Rajasingamangalam Taluk scarcely got a drop. This fall of rain was most beneficial for punjah crops every where, for nunjah crops in Mutukolatur and Kamuthy. The rivers have not, however, filled at all.

2. *Drinking water supply.*—The supply of drinking water is at present abundant both for men and cattle. There are complaints of its scarcity from the Visavanur Division of the Rajasingamangalam Taluk only.

3. *Supply of water in tanks.*—The subjoined table shows the amount of water supply now in the tanks as per accounts received from the Tahsildars :—

Taluks.	3 Months.	2½ Months.	2 Months.	1½ Months.	1 Month.	20 days.	15 days.
Ramnad	...	2	4	1	6	5	6
Mutukolatur	7	4	20	13	30	5	13
Kamuthy	2	...	12	27	49	...	...
Pallunadem	...	3	...	3	7	3	14
Rajasingamangalam ...	...	...	1	1	13	2	31
Hanumantakudy	...	...	2	23	17	14	21
Total ...	9	9	48	68	122	29	85

4. *Prices.*—The price of grain is, at present, almost stationary as follows :—

Taluks.	Rice.	Cumbu.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Varagu.
	Measures.	Measures.	Measures.	Measures.	Measures.
Ramnad	4½	8½	8½	11	11
Mutukolatur	4½	9	9	13½	14
Kamuthy	4½	8½	9	14	12
Pallunadem	4½	9	10½	...	12
Rajasingamangalam	4½	9	9	...	13
Hanumantakudy	4¼	8	9	9	12
Average ...	4 11/16	8 5/8	9⅛	11⅞	12¾

5. *Extent of cultivation.*—The following statement shows the extent of cultivation in each taluk up to the end of November in this (1288) fasli compared with the average extent in the three previous faslis for the same period :—

Taluks.	Fasli 1288.		Average of Faslis 1285 to 1287.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Ramnad	1,400	7,000	803	5,531	591	1,169	..	2,257
Mutukolatur	2,242	13,973	2,100	16,230	142	..	..	24,771
Kamuthy	2,971	16,429	2,679	41,210	292	..	580	8,284
Pallunadem	1,000	42,531	1,580	50,805	..	..	738	197
Rajasingamangalam	4,314	12,925	3,014	13,124	..	..	..	..
Hanumantakudy	3,450	12,500	3,003	11,895	447	604	..	..
Total ..	15,373	105,358	15,225	139,004	1,472	1,863	1,318	35,509

Net increase in wet, 154.

Net decrease in dry, 33,646.

6. *Estimated produce.*—The annexed abstract shows the estimated quantity of produce which may be obtained in each taluk :—

(1.)—If we get no more rain.

(2.)—If we get good rain within a week.

(3.)—If we get good rain in a week's time and again in January.

The above estimate is framed with reference to the reports of the Tahsildars regarding the expected yield and to the circumstances of each taluk both as regards the nature of the soil and its productiveness. The produce here represented is approximately the quantity that will be saved excluding the withered crops, &c. In the 1st case the yield amounts to $\frac{1}{16}$ in wet and $\frac{1}{8}$ in dry, of the yield of an average year. In the 2nd and 3rd cases it amounts to $\frac{1}{5}$ in wet, and $\frac{1}{5}$ in dry, and $\frac{1}{4}$ in wet, and $\frac{1}{3}$ in dry respectively. If the season should continue to be favorable after January, the yield might amount to one-half of the average, both in wet and dry crops.

Taluks.	(1.) Extent of cultivation.		(1.) Produce.		(2.) Produce.		(3.) Extent including the extent in (1.)		(3.) Produce.	
	Wet Cols.	Dry Kurukunns.	Wet Cols.	Dry Cols.	Wet Cols.	Dry Cols.	Wet Cols.	Dry Kurukunns.	Wet Cols.	Dry Cols.
Ramnad	1,400	7,000	4,200	3,500	5,600	7,000	2,000	14,000	10,000	10,500
Mutukolatur	2,242	13,973	6,726	4,658	8,968	6,987	3,000	20,000	13,500	10,000
Kamuthy	2,971	16,429	2,971	8,218	11,884	12,320	3,500	50,000	14,000	25,000
Pallunadem	1,000	42,531	2,000	21,266	4,000	32,898	1,500	50,000	6,000	50,000
Rajasingamangalam ..	4,316	12,925	6,474	3,231	12,948	9,699	5,000	20,000	17,500	20,000
Hanumanthkudy	3,450	12,500	8,215	9,375	17,250	12,500	4,000	20,000	16,000	20,000
Total..	15,379	105,358	30,456	50,245	60,650	80,695	19,000	174,000	77,000	135,500

7. *State of existing crops.*—The nunjah crops under tanks with any remaining water supply are excellent. Otherwise they are withering and will not last more than 10 or 15 days if no rain falls. Punjah crops are generally in fair condition, except in a few villages in the Ramnad and Rajasingamangalam Taluks. In the Rajasingamangalam and Visavanur divisions of Rajasingamangalam Taluk, the punjah crops have already withered. The existing punjah crops will probably *all* be saved if we get rain in a week. In some villages of Ramnad, Mutukolatur, Kamuthy and Hanumuntakudy Taluks, it appears that the crops are destroyed to some extent by insects. Good rain will probably do away with this nuisance.

8. *Condition of the ryots.*—The condition of the ryots is generally bad, especially in Kamuthy and Mutukolatur Taluks which suffered most during the late famine and floods. Many of the poorer ryots in these two taluks are in a wretched condition.

9. *Emigration.*—According to the reports of the Tahsildars about 24,200 persons seem to have emigrated already to Ceylon and elsewhere as per margin from each taluk. They continue to emigrate.

	Persons.
Ramnad	1,500
Mutukolatur	5,950
Kamuthy	13,033
Pallunadem	565
Rajasingamangalam	2,000
Hanumantakudy	1,151
	24,199

10. *Cattle.*—Cattle and sheep are in excellent condition. I have never seen the live-stock look so well and fat. If the season does not become more favorable, however, I fear the ryots will be obliged to sell their ploughing oxen. We must prevent this if possible.

11. *General Remarks.*—My own opinion is that we shall have rain very shortly. The weather is most abnormal, usually at this season of the year a strong N. E. wind blows night and day with a cloudy sky. This year the wind has never settled to blow steadily from the N. E., it shifts all around the compass, now while I write it is blowing from the S. E. The nights and days are clear and cloudless, the sun is very hot and at night we have heavy dew. This morning for the first time for many days the clouds were heavily banked in the N. E. and the atmosphere was very heavy, but it has passed off.

12. *Works.*—I do not wish to enter very fully on the subject of 'works' in this letter. I do not think the season is yet settled, but I may as well say that should the season continue rainless and should we be obliged to start relief works, we shall have no lack of remunerative work. In the south we have (1) the Reghunatha Cauvery extension project, (2) the Narrayana

Cauvery; in the north we have the large Rajasingamangalam tank and its channels. The survey of this latter work is now in progress under Mr. Lowry. At present we have several large tank works in hand. After the rains of 24th, 25th, the ryots all left these works and I have not heard of their return. In conclusion,

* No. 1,567, dated 13th November 1878.

I beg to enclose copy of a report* received from Mr. Lowry, the Engineer in charge of the estate, proposing the construction of a light tramway from Virlupatty to Kamuthy and thence down the Reghunatha Cauvery bank to Keelakarai. I kept this report by me for some time as I intended to report fully on the scheme with statistics, &c., but this I have been unable to do on account of the rain which rendered the country impassible. I believe that Mr. Lowry's scheme is perfectly feasible, will cost very little comparatively, and be easily and quickly constructed. It is a much better line in my opinion than that surveyed by Mr. Jenkinson; it is shorter, passes through a richer country and will be more easily and cheaply made. I believe it will pay. If necessary I will obtain and send in such particulars and statistics as I can obtain. I beg particularly to call your attention to Mr. Lowry's remark that there is not a made-road in the Zemindari and that it will cost very little more to make a light railway than to construct a good metalled road. Many years must elapse before a road can be made, whereas a light railway can be turned out in a very short time comparatively.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue in conjunction with Mr. Hebbert' report.

2. The rainfall shown in the table furnished was better than ordinary in July and August It did not wholly fail in September and October, and the ryots probably succeeded in getting in a crop of cholum or other dry grain before the worst drought set in. The reports of Mr. Hebbert's Deputy Tahsildars lead to the supposition that they did so.

3. The prospects in Rajasingamangalam and Hanumantakudy may at any time be very much altered by rain as has occurred in Mutukolatur and Kamuthy which from being worst off are now perhaps the best part of the Zemindari because of the November rains.

4. There is no difficulty in finding remunerative work in the Ramnad Zemindari when it is absolutely necessary to provide work. Emigration to Ceylon and the work going on in the estate will provide for the wants of a great many people for the present, and as any distress that may arise will probably be only temporary, the Reghunatha Cauvery and Narrayana Cauvery should be able to provide for it all.

5. It hardly seems likely that so important a work as the tramway alluded to will be required. The question of the tramway is however recommended for the consideration of the Board and Government.

6. There are differences of opinion as to the value of this line and that surveyed by Mr. Jenkinson, but possibly it might be desirable to make both lines and give up the idea of road-making in such a difficult country.

ALLINAGARAM,
17th December 1878.

(Signed) C. W. W. MARTIN,
Acting Collector

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

LIST showing the Quantity of Rain fallen in Ramnad.

Fasli.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.
1284 ...	·70	·08	3·04	4·35	7·02	1·35	·07	1·20	1·0	2 53	...	1·15
1285 ..	·01	·08	3·08	6·55	6 60	1·95	·22	...	1·08	2·67	·31	...
1286 ...	·18	2·06	·41	1·62	2·87	4·19	·16	...	·16	2·25	·87	·23
1287 ...	...	·95	1·91	7·51	13·11	14·33	1·97	...	...	6 40	4 74	·55
1288 ...	1·24	1·50	·64	1·5	5·56	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(Signed) E. TURNER,
Special Assistant Collector.

2911/3

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From C. KOUGH, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 10th December 1878, No. 741.

WITH reference to your letter as per margin, I have the honor to report upon the condition of the Sub-division as regards the season.

Letter No. 4,309, dated 20th November 1878.

2. I regret that I had not time within the period fixed for this report to go through both taluks. Dindigul, however, has been very carefully inspected by the Acting Tahsildar Muthusami Iyer, and I have every confidence in his returns, borne out as they are by what I have seen of this taluk in the surrounding neighborhood and in the tract between here and Ayilur.

3. I have just returned from Pulney, where from the centres of observation noted, representing pretty fairly each direction of the country, I instituted careful inquiries besides making personal investigation.

1. Thalayuthu.
2. Thoppamputti.
3. Kullimandayam.
4. Thungachiammaputti.

4. I proceed to give my views generally as resulting from the foregoing sources of observation.

5. PULNEY TALUK.—*Nunjey crops* are excellent. In Pulney itself the large tank, which is again a feeder of four others, has been full for a long while, and there will be not only bumper crops but double ones. Elsewhere throughout the taluk wet crops are also satisfactory.

6. Garden crops in Pulney are also prosperous. The wells are full, unusually so, owing to the heavy rains of last year, and the area irrigated has already produced a tolerably good crop, and preparations are now being actively made for the Tei Bogam cultivation, which will probably turn out equally satisfactorily.

7. Dry land crops, of which the harvest is already passed, have been generally very poor. The gradations of failure may be roughly classed as worst in westward, less in the northern, and least in midland and eastern villages. The outturn of these crops now in the ground, *e.g.*, gram, dhol, is contingent on the advent of rain in this month and to the middle of January. Under no circumstances can there now be any fresh dry cultivation.

8. The cause of this requires some explanation, inasmuch as if the rain register only is looked to, it would appear as if water-supply had been abundant. But the fact is that the fall has not been general to every locality. The only really reliable gauge is that kept in the taluk; the Curnam's record kept in "Shevis" is not trustworthy. There can be, however, no doubt that in dry villages there has not been sufficient rain at the proper seasons. This is proved by the extent of waste. Cultivation being 43 per cent. less than the average of two good years and one bad (Faslis 1283, 1284, 1285). This year it averages 28 per cent. of the dry ayacut (excluding totam).

9. As regards water for drinking and pasturage both are abundant, but unhappily in some places there are scarcely any cattle left to profit by this. This is notably to the west and north.

10. Public health is generally good with the exception of the prevalence of fever.

11. I now pass to Dindigul Taluk, and I think I cannot do better than to enter here extracts *verbatim* from the Acting Tahsildar's report in English, excluding such as are of a statistical nature.

1.. "The rain, though not much, was general throughout the taluk in each month up to the beginning of September and was not insufficient for all early operations of husbandry. After that there was heavy fall in the Nelacottah division, but slight and precarious in the other parts."

2. "The scanty downpour of ·63 inch in April was of no use, but the pretty good fal of nearly 3½ inches in May and tolerable showers of 1·8 inches in June conduced to the preparation of the dry lands for receiving seed in July, a month in which almost all the dry grains are sown and which is the most suitable season (pattum) for that operation. Then came the good and timely showers of 4 inches in July, and the ryots sowed cholum, varagu, ragi, cumbu, samai and thenai, and also pulse crops to a considerable extent. Rains in August and beginning of September were useful to develop the crops sown in July and also for sowing the remaining waste lands."

3. "Garden cultivations were going on as usual, and white cholum, ragi and cumbu gave a good harvest."

4. "Rains of July, August and September brought good supply of water, such of the tanks as are fed by jungle streams, and one or two month's supply to many tanks which entirely depend on rains. Good freshes also came down the rivers, so ploughing, sowing and transplanting of paddy were carried on in the wet lands both under river and tank irrigations. So far I can safely say up to the first half of September the prospects were excellent throughout the taluk."

5. "The period between the second half of September and end of November is the most critical time for the dry crops. It is then the ears are formed, developed and matured. It is then that plenty rain is required. The ryots anxiously expected for that plenty rain, but were sadly disappointed. What actually fell was not only scanty and precarious but was distributed over several days in small showers, so that it was not even enough to saturate the earth to a sufficient depth where the roots of the crops could receive moisture and be thereby benefited. Exception to this, is the whole of the Nilacottah division, in which the deficiency of rainfall in September, which caused the crops cultivated in July to fade slightly, was made good by heavy falls in October and November."

6. "This division which I inspected in the first week of November is indeed good both with regard to dry and wet crops except the few dry villages of Ragathani and and Viriveedoo, &c., situated south of the Vegai where the outturn of crops has not been so good as in the other parts. With this favored division may be included the Ammayanayaknur Zemindari and a greater portion of Kannivadi Zemindari. The rest of the taluk has yielded a bad harvest of dry grains owing to deficiency of rain. Wet crops have already withered under some tanks in the Vedasandur division which I inspected in the third week of November. Under the other tanks of this division and of the eastern villages, paddy looks well, and the tanks are just beginning to dry up. If there is at least in a week hence so good a rain as to bring two months' supply to the tanks a harvest may be expected. Wet crops under river irrigations are excellent. The pulse crops which were fading have revived by the rain on the 25th and 26th November which was too late for the grain crops."

7. "In this year dry cultivation is less by 20,407 acres assessed at Rupees 19,413, and wet cultivation more by 702 acres assessed at Rupees 4,738, than the average cultivation for the three years. The decrease in the former is partly attributable to no cultivation returns having been received for two villages from September, for one village from October, and from five villages for November, owing to the sickness, &c., of the Curnams, and partly to the fact that a considerable extent of land has been left waste in many, especially the eastern villages where fever has been rife and consequently many poor people have quitted their villages through fear. Under the head Dry is included the cultivation under wells, &c., which is 14,700 acres in extent assessed at Rupees 26,000."

8. "Public health is generally good except in some parts of the taluk where fever is more or less prevalent. It is very severe in the villages east of Dindigul and south of the Nattam road bordering the Sirumalais, and in those in the vicinity of the Caranthamalays."

9. "Well-to-do ryots have stock of grains, but have been very sparing in throwing them into the market, lest they should be left in want, if the still expected rain fails. The dry harvest will afford food to the poor people, both laboring and agricultural classes, sufficient to maintain them—I can safely say—up to the end of February."

10. "The markets are well supplied both from the local stocks and from the small importations. Price is still abnormally high."

12. GENERAL VIEW.—The ryots have but a limited stock of old grain in hand at present. It will, of course, be greatly replenished when the Nunjey and Tei Bogham crops are harvested. The produce of the recent harvest in garden and dry lands is being consumed by the people at present as food. The local weekly markets are well supplied. The prices are in general high and stationary.

13. The cooly classes find abundant labor at present in the nunjey villages in the taluk as well as those situated on the banks of Amaravati in the Coimbatore District. There will be labor available till the close of the harvest of the Nunjey and Tei Bogham crops which will last till the end of February. In March slight distress as regards power to purchase, but not as to actual food supply, may be apprehended among the cooly classes, and ryots who are dependent *on bare punjah lands*. Their condition should be closely watched. To meet this contingency, I strongly advocate having two works ready at hand, one in the western and the other in the northern villages of Pulney, and as regards Dindigul by any couple of similar works to be selected.

14. Any relief that may eventually prove necessary will, I think, be amply and best met by giving employment, and I do not anticipate any probability of food or money-dole being required.

15. Whilst on relief measures, I think it is desirable to consider beforehand the probable condition as to means in which the ryots, whose sole resource is dry cultivation, may be placed.

16. The past famine has reduced them in physique and pocket. They are subsisting now, and will continue to do so, on the scanty outturn of the present harvest, eked out by garden produce and hire of manual labor. They have no surplus stock to sell, and no money in hand; nor is there any prospect of this class having any; any they get will pass from hand to mouth. I am afraid it will be inexpedient to press upon this class collection of past years or current kists, and I think the question must be faced even now as to whether it will be not necessary and politic to give dry remission to holders exclusively of punjey land (not to occupants of mixed dry, garden and wet). This is a matter on which the Board should, I think, be consulted without delay, and a discretion put in time into the hands of the district administration.

17. It is however worthy of note that in spite of the bad yield of dry crops in the end of 1877, the ryots managed to get on without coming upon relief during the current year. But this very struggle would make it a harder one for 1879.

18. Of course all this report is more or less prospective, and its anticipations must be very decidedly modified by the advent of rain in this month and a proper fall in April.

19. I purposely abstain from anything like statistics. If you wish for any however, I have considerable material at hand and shall do my best to supply what may be wanted.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue.

2. The season in the Sub-Division promised remarkably well up to September, but since then the rainfall has been as in other parts of the district scanty and scattered. Both taluks have however a good and a bad part, and as the wells are reported full throughout the division as well as the tanks in the more favored localities I think that the people will find both food and labor to carry them through without Government aid.

3. I have written however to the Superintending Engineer regarding the irrigation projects investigated last year near Pulney by two officers of the Bengal Public Works Department. These will probably be enough to meet the worst anticipations for the present season should relief be required at all. The project that would be most useful to the locality and the district generally, is the Dindigul, Pulney and Palghaut Railway, but it is not likely to be ready in time and it is too heavy a work to be undertaken in a period of short distress.

(Signed) C. W. W. MARTIN,
Acting Collector.

ALLINAGARAM,
17th December 1878.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From F. H. HEBBERT, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 9th December 1878, No. 615.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report on the state of season, crops, and prices, &c., of my division, called for in your letter, No. 4,309, dated 20th November 1878.

2. As explained in my letter, No. 596, dated 29th November 1878, I was not able to go on a tour of my division, but the several Deputy Tahsildars under me were directed to send accurate reports, and I append below a summary of their reports as regards their respective divisions, with a few observations of my own.

3. *Tiruvadani Division.*—Nearly the whole extent of the punjah and nunjah cultivation of the last year was brought under cultivation in this year also. As the rain held back for a long time, both nunjah and punjah crops were in a drooping state, when the rains which fell on the 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th November greatly revived them. One or two similar falls of rain within December will, it is expected, bring about a fair punjah harvest. As regards the nunjah crops, the fall of rain in November was timely and was just enough to revive them, but as it was scanty it did not put any water in the tanks. To bring the nunjah crops to maturity two months' supply of water in the tanks or a large amount of rainfall is needed, and unless this happens the prospects of a good nunjah harvest are small. Owing to the rain holding off for a great length of time there was some loss of nunjah and punjah crops, but the extent of crops thus lost is believed to be but small. The marginal statement shows the prices of the several food-grains in the chief centres of this division, and it is stated that there is no lack of food-supply. Grain is to be freely had for sale, and harvest is said to be going on to a small extent in the western part of this division. Emigration to Ceylon, &c., has taken place to a small extent, but this is usual in all years, and there has been no complaint of want of work. The outlook of this division is not gloomy as yet, and if there is rain within

Markets.	Paddy, 2nd sort.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.	Varagu.
Teruvadani..	9	8½	9	..	12
Devakottah	9	8	7	..	..
Kannangoodi	9	8	..	..	..
Tondi	9	..	..	..	..
Tiruppalgoodi	9	7½	..	..	..
Tiruvegambathu ..	10	9	..	..	..

this month the matters will be all right, and there will be no fear of distress, much less of famine.

4. *Ramnad Division.*—In the usual cultivation season, viz., the months of August and September, there was little or no rain, and there was therefore no cultivation in these months, except some cases of cultivation in which some well-to-do ryots sowed varagu, cumbu, &c., in expectation of rain. In some of these cases the seeds did not germinate for want of rain, while in the case of those that germinated the plants became stunted from the same cause, but were revived by the November rain, 5¼ inches of which were registered at Ramnad between the 10th and 20th. The rainfall in November has been general throughout this division, and the ryots have taken vigorously to ploughing and sowing their punjah lands with cumbu, a light seed coming to perfection in three months' time. The moisture caused by the November rainfall will last for a month or a month and-a-half, and if there is a fall of rain about the 20th December a tolerably good punjah harvest can be expected, and all apprehensions of distress will be removed, as the majority of the people live upon dry grains. As regards nunjah cultivation the case is different. The cultivation is not extensive owing to some tanks being in a state of disrepair, and owing to want of sufficient rain to put water in those tanks which are in a state of repair. The nunjah lands under the big tank of Ramnad and two other tanks have been cultivated, and there is every hope of a good crop being obtained. The prospects of nunjah cultivation are not on the whole favorable in this division. The prices of the food-grains as they sell at Ramnad are given in the margin. The markets are well supplied. There has been some emigration to Ceylon, &c., but this does not indicate anything, as emigration is usual.

Paddy, 1st sort	8
Do. 2nd do.	9½
Ragi	8½
Cumbu	8½

5. *Mutukulatur Division.*—There was slight rain in the cultivation months of July and August, with the aid of which about one-fourth of the ordinary extent of punjah cultivation was cultivated. As the rain held back however subsequently, except that occasional showers fell here and there, about one-fourth of this cultivation withered and the rest were greatly revived by the November rains, and is confidently expected will come to maturity even without the aid of further rain. In fact a portion of this crop has already been harvested. With the November rains which fell on four consecutive days the punjah lands in all the villages were cultivated and sown with cumbu, a light seed, and if there is only a fall of rain about the 15th December and another fall about the beginning of January, the whole extent of this cumbu cultivation will come to maturity and all apprehensions of distress will be entirely removed. With the aid of the rain which fell in the month of August and in the beginning of September about one-fourth of the nunjah avaram of the division was cultivated, and in two or three villages the crop is being harvested. The rest of the nunjah crops was in a drooping state when the November rains greatly revived them, and if there is two or two falls of rain most of this crop will be saved. With the November rains the nunjah lands under several other tanks have been brought under cultivation, and these require copious rain to bring the crops to maturity. The marginal table shows the prices of the different food-grains in some of the chief centres of this division. It is reported that the markets are well supplied, and there has also been emigration from this division to some extent. There has been as yet no complaint of want of work.

Markets.	Paddy, 2nd sort.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.	Varagu.
Permagudi	10	9½	9	13	13
Kelkudi	10	9	9	..	..

6. *Tiruhattu Division.*—About half the extent of the nunjah avaram seems to have been brought under cultivation; a similar proportion of the punjah lands too appears to have been cultivated. With the November rains which fell on the 25th, 26th, and 27th idem the standing crops appear to have been greatly benefited, and are reported to look well. If by the 15th December there is a fall of rain it is said that the punjah crops will be saved; as for nunjah a more copious rainfall is needed. Punjah crops are said to have been harvested now to a small extent in a few localities. The markets are reported to be well supplied, and the prices of food-grains which rule in some of the chief places in the division are shown in the margin. Emigration has commenced to some extent, but this is usual. If there is a fall of rain about the 15th there will be no room for anxiety. As yet there has been no complaint of want of work.

Markets.	Paddy, 2nd sort.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.	Varagu.
Karaikudi	10	9½	9½	14	15
Arupukotai	10½	10	10	8	12
Tiruhattur	10	10½	9½	16	..

7. On the whole the present appears to be a critical period. If there is a fall of rain about the 20th December, followed by a similar fall in the beginning of January, there will be no cause for anxiety, and all apprehensions of distress will be removed. But if rain holds off and does not fall on those dates, the matter will probably take a serious turn.

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8. *Tiruppatur Division.*—In the spring of 1878 the season was very favorable, and the ryots cultivated ragi and paddy on wet and cumbu on dry lands and obtained a good outturn. But the ryots were in arrear of their rents for two years, and the Zemindar, taking advantage of this opportunity, collected his arrears by coercive measures, so that all what the ryots got were taken away in satisfaction of the arrears. The season, however, continued favorable, and it was in fact so till the end of August. The ryots, therefore, made preparations extensively for the cultivation of wet lands, but from September the rainfall became scanty, and there was nothing but petty showers and drizzlings. The seedlings in seed-beds and the transplanted paddy crops began to wither. The dry crops suffered equally. In the eastern parts of the division varagu was the main crop on dry lands, and all the varagu on high lands have been lost. Those on the low lands did not die, and were greatly benefited by the November rains. The dry crops in the western part of the division have not suffered so badly. Cholum, the main crop there, has been cut, and the outturn was half or three-eighths. The standing dry crops, *i.e.*, ragi, &c., will, it is expected, give half yield with a shower or two more. Nearly all the dry lands which are usually cultivated have been cultivated this year. Nearly three-eighths of this have already been cut, three-eighths have totally withered, and the remaining one-fourth will, it is expected, give the yield mentioned above. As regards nunjah lands, only about half have been cultivated this year and the rest remain waste. Of the cultivated lands, half have been totally lost and the remainder may give a yield of one-fourth or half of an average crop if rains fall within the 15th December. There are, however, a few tracts here and there where the wet crops are in good condition. These, however, form a small proportion in the whole division. There will be no apprehension of distress if copious rains fall at least before the end of December. The laborers find work, and there has been no complaint of want of work. There has been no emigration to a small extent. The marginal statement shows the prices of the different food-grains in some of the chief centres of this division. The markets are well supplied, and there is no lack of the supply of food-grains for sale.

Markets.	Paddy, 2nd sort.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.	Varagu.
Tiruppatur	10½	9	..	15	..
Singampoonari	12	10	12	13	24
Sa'kot	10	9	..	..	..
Karaikudi	13	9½	..	13	..

9. *Shivaganga Division.*—Though the order was strict, the Deputy Tahsildar of Shivaganga has not as yet sent in his report for his division. I shall report about the state of this division as soon as his report is received.

10. The fate of the crops depend upon a fall of rain within this month. I have directed all the Deputy Tahsildars to report the fall of rain at once, and I will send you the reports by the same day's post as they are received.

FORWARDED for the information of the Board of Revenue.

2. Mr. Hebbert was not well enough to go on circuit himself, but he gives the general opinion of the Deputy Tahsildars subordinate to him, who are the officers employed in the zemindari.

3. The view on the state of the season taken by these Government officers may be briefly summed up by the statement that sufficient dry crop is on the ground at present to save the zemindaries from want if it does not fail, and that the crop can last for some time longer without rain.

4. Mr. Hebbert has forwarded the Shivaganga Deputy Tahsildar's report on the 12th instant. It shows a similar state of affairs to that described by the other Deputy Tahsildars.

ALLINAGARAM,
17th December 1878.

(Signed) C. W. W. MARTIN,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From F. H. HEBBERT, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 12th December 1878, No. 625.

IN continuation of my letter, No. 615, dated 9th December 1878, I have the honor to submit my report about the state of the Shivaganga Deputy Tahsildar's Division, which I was not able to embody in my first report owing to the Deputy Tahsildar having omitted to send in his report in time.

2. Fasli 1288 opened with good prospects; the kodai crop of Fasli 1287 had yielded a pretty good outturn, and heavy showers of rain fell in the months of June, July, and August, by which most of the tanks received a good supply of water. The agricultural observations therefore were begun with great activity, and considerable portions of nunjah and punjah lands were

brought under cultivation. An abundant harvest was expected, and this happy prospect continued till September, when the plants were all looking healthy and free from any disease whatever. From October, however, the rains began to be unsatisfactory, and the tanks in consequence to dry, and the Deputy Tahsildar says that during the months of September, October, and November the quantity of rain registered was two-thirds of the quantity registered in the previous months of June, July, and August. About one-fifth of the nunjah lands cultivated will, it is said, come to maturity without further need of rain, though the want of it may to some extent affect the outturn. It is also said that if there is one or two falls of rain within the 25th of this month a large portion of the remaining nunjah crops will be saved. As regards punjah, the chief crop raised, forming in fact three-fourths of the total punjah cultivation, is varagu, and this and paddy of inferior sorts are said to be harvested now to some extent with the result that the yield is not very good. Of the other punjah crops, cholam and cumbu have been harvested, with a poor yield in the case of the former and a good yield as regards the latter crop. The result of the other standing punjah crops depends upon one or two falls of rain, which will greatly benefit them.

3. Men and cattle are healthy, and there is sufficient fodder and pasture for the latter. Drinking water is available everywhere. The marginal statement gives the prices of the food-grains. Grains are to be freely had for sale, and there has been as yet no complaint of want of work.

	Measures.
Rice, 2nd sort	4½
Cholum	14
Ragi	9
Cumbu	8

4. As already stated in my letter, No. 615, dated 9th December 1878, the fate of the standing crops seems to depend upon a fall of rain within this month. No rain has as yet been reported by the Deputy Tahsildars, and, as far as I can make out, there appear to be no signs of rain.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From Major F. KILGOUR, Superintendent of Police, Madura, to C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Culputty, 9th December 1878, No. 212.

IN reply to your letter, No. 4,315, dated 20th November, I have the honor to forward, for your information, copy of a letter from the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Ramnad, reporting on the present condition of his division.

From F. G. CLERK, Esq., Acting Assistant Superintendent of Police, Ramnad, to Major F. KILGOUR, Superintendent of Police, Madura, dated 5th December 1878, No. 127.

WITH reference to your endorsement on the Collector's letter, No. 4,315, I have the honor to report that since the 20th November there has been very fair rain in the west, south, east, but poor in the northern parts of the Ramnad Zemindari. In the northern parts of the Shivaganga Zemindari the crops are withering and rain is badly required, but in the south and south-east there has been good rain. Since August I have visited all my stations in the both zemindaries, with the exception of the Northern or Tiruvadanai Division in the Ramnad Zemindari, and did not notice any distress, except in the south-east of Tiruchulai and Mutukolatur, but since then good rain has fallen.

2. As yet no roadside deaths have been reported, and the discovery of unclaimed dead bodies are few and far between.

3. As for the state of crime, I find that in the Ramnad Zemindari comparing the third quarter with the second quarter it has decreased 28 per cent., whereas in the Shivaganga Zemindari it has increased 31 per cent.; however I do not consider this increase is sufficiently heavy to show there is any distress, as in that zemindari crime fluctuates a good deal.

4. There has been sufficient rain to save the standing crops, but should there not be a heavy downfall of rain before the end of this month, there will be, I am sure, a good deal of distress; but as the fall of rain is always so very uncertain in these zemindaries, it is impossible just now to form any decided opinion as to what amount of distress there is likely to be.

5. As yet I do not consider it advisable to start relief-works, though it would be well to have preparations made so that works could be started when found necessary without any delay.

FORWARDED for the information of the Board of Revenue. Mr. Clerk's report gives a similar view regarding the state of the Shivaganga and Ramnad Zemindaries to that given by Mr. Hebbert's Deputy Tahsildars. The correctness of this view is corroborated by the decrease of crime in the Ramnad Zemindari.

2. There has been an increase of crime in the Shivaganga Zemindari, but Mr. Clerk does not regard it as important because of the fluctuations in crime constantly occurring.

3. There has also not been much anxiety expressed hitherto regarding Shivaganga Zemindari.

ALLINAGARAM,
17th December 1878.

(Signed) C. W. W. MARTIN,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

From R. C. LOWRY, Esq., Engineer in charge of Ramnad Estate Works, to E. TURNER, Esq., Special Assistant Collector of Ramnad, dated 13th November 1878, No. 1,567.

As there is at present considerable scarcity prevailing in the southern part of the estate, and as (should the rains which we have been expecting for the past six weeks unhappily fail) this scarcity is likely to be so intensified as to not improbably necessitate the establishment of relief-works, I have the honor to suggest that it may be desirable for us to consider what would be the most suitable and remunerative works situated in the affected part of the estate that we could put in hands.

2. The tract of country now threatened with famine embraces nearly the whole of the Mutukolatur and Kamuthy Taluks and the southern part of the Ramnad Taluk—one of the best irrigated parts of the Ramnad Zemindari as long as the Gundar on which it depends for water does not fail; but though this system of irrigation is capable of great improvement (and is being improved), would any relief-work that we could open now with this object tend to any perceptible diminution in the price of grain at such another time as the present? Rice is selling in Mutukolatur and Kamuthy at a price 20 per cent. greater than what it is in Madura; and when this means to say that in one case it is selling for 5½ and in the other for 4½ measures per rupee, the great difference in price can be understood.

3. The principal reason of this difference in the price of grain at Madura and at a place removed but 50 miles from that town is, I would suggest, want of the means of easy locomotion. From Madura to Kamuthy there is an inferior road which crosses the Gundar twice; the crossings are long and tedious, and if the river is in flood (as it often is for days) impassable. Carts in consequence very frequently adopt the old cart-track to the south, which runs parallel to the river; but as this track is over black cotton soil, it cannot be used in wet weather, so that communication may be cut off for weeks in that direction. Again, a cart-track goes from Kamuthy to Virudupati Railway Station (a distance of 30 miles), but also impassable for weeks together in the monsoon, as it, too, is over black cotton soil. To the west, with Kilkarai communication cannot be kept up during the rains, and it is at all times a troublesome journey of 31 miles across the back-water and belt of heavy sand 3 miles wide and along a track over black cotton soil crossing all the unbridged distributaries of the Reghunatha Cauvery; while at the same time I would point out that it is from the port of Kilkarai that grain is supplied to nearly all the southern half of the Ramnad Estate.

4. I would therefore suggest that the most useful work that could be undertaken would be the formation of a communication extending from Kilkarai to Kamuthy and thence to Virudupati. A good metalled road might be made along the bank of the Reghunatha Cauvery, the distributing sluices acting as viaducts, but this for the greater part of its length is but from 6 to 8 feet wide at top, and the cost of increasing the top width to 18 feet, which to carry a road it would require to be, would be very large, as the height of the embankment is on an average about 10 feet. Suitable materials for road-making would also be expensive, as they should be carted from distant quarries.

5. Probably the most effective and satisfactory, while at the same time the cheapest, description of communication would be a light estate tramway passing from Kilkarai (an important seaport) near Kalary along the bank of the Cauvery near Mutukolatur to Kamuthy, and thence through the large town of Arupakotai to Virudupati Railway Station. A glance at the map will show the towns near which this line would pass. The embankment for such a road is already made up to formation level for a length of 12 miles, for which length it would not cross a single stream; and for a distance of 26 miles not a single culvert would have to be built, as the line would pass over the sluices which either are now or will be (when the Reghunatha Cauvery Project is completed) strong enough to carry it. The most important and expensive bridges would be across the escape weirs in the Gundar dam at Kamuthy (having a total length of 300 feet), which, as I would propose that the line be a very small one, could be crossed by light iron girders over 50 feet openings. From Kamuthy to Virudupati the road would keep on a water-shed for nearly the whole distance.

6. The model which, to a great extent, I would propose to follow in making the line would be the Festiniog Railway in North Wales, except that the rails would be fastened direct to the sleepers instead of resting in chairs as is the case in the Welch line. The gauge would thus be 2 feet, the weight of the single-headed rails 30 lb. per lineal yard. The width at formation level should be 8 feet, length of sleepers 4½ feet. The cost of the line from Kamuthy to Kil-

karai would, I estimate, be about Rupees 2,00,000, or about Rs. 7,000 per mile, this cost being approximately distributed thus:—

	Rs.
Cost of rails, fish-plates, bolts, &c.	4,500
Do. ballasting and earthwork	500
Do. viaduct	500
Do. station signals, &c.	500
Do. rolling-stock	1,000
Total ...	7,000

When it is remembered that the timber sleepers can be procured in the estate, that ballast (sand) is obtainable for its whole length (from Kamuthy to Kilkarai) alongside the line, that there is a gentle incline (about 1 in 1,000) all the way from Kamuthy to Kilkarai, and that there are wealthy merchants in the latter place able and willing to give a large sum (probably one-third of the cost) towards the making of the line, the idea does not, I think, appear so extravagant as it at first thought seems. Very little rolling-stock would at first be necessary, and it might, I would suggest, be composed of two or three engines and a number of ballast trucks. The stations would not be elaborate structures, and with due precautions a telegraph might most probably be dispensed with.

7. In addition to traffic in salt, grain, and general merchandise a large passenger traffic might be expected, the thousands of pilgrims annually visiting the shrine of Rameswaram and the celebrated temple of Tiruppallany near Kilkarai.

8. As a famine work the formation of the line would, I venture to say, be a success, and that it would be an immense boon to the estate cannot, I think be doubted. The absence of even a moderate number of tolerably good roads does as much to impoverish the country as the neglect of its irrigation works has done. Whether it is from want of money, materials, or supervision, the fact remains that this fine estate is devoid of any main communication deserving to be classed higher than a "cart-track;" and even if a suitable system of macadamized roads in the estate were now devised or begun, it would take five years at least to carry out the project, while the tramway now proposed could be formed in nine months and could subsequently be extended to the town of Ramnad, the necessity for other roads being thus dispensed with.

SUBMITTED, with Mr. Turner's report of the 9th December 1878, to the Board of Revenue.

ALLINAGARAM,
17th December 1878.

(Signed) C. W. W. MARTIN,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government, with enclosures in original (to be returned).

2. The Collector will carefully watch the progress of events and keep the Board informed of the measures which may appear necessary later on in the season.

3. Remissions for failure of dry crops should not be granted, but where it may appear to the Collector absolutely necessary to grant relief to a certain extent, the collection of *revenue* may be temporarily suspended, but a careful discretion must be exercised.

4. Should the necessity for relief-works arise, which the Board hardly anticipate, there appear to be several irrigation projects which have been investigated, and which would afford employment to such as may stand in need of it.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

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No. 430. ORDER THEREON, 27th December 1878, F.R. No. 2,624.

Miscellaneous. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Collector of Madura.
" the Revenue Department.
" the Financial do.
" the Public Works do.

Exd. W. H. French and A. F. Goodall.
4 Spare Copies.

N. 54 L

Capt. of H.M.S. Fisher

Mss. dft 17 Janry 1799 No 224

Vice Pr 25 Oct 99

13 Jan.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 220-229.

Progress of the Cases in the Prize Courts of Admiralty, Plantations in the Maltese Islands, &c. and other Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on appeals respecting them.

No 224

Lodged

2 January 1800

No. 224